CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13th, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I write to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct an updated and comprehensive assessment-and-remediation plan of identified radioactive hot spots in Niagara County, New York. It is of great importance that through this process the EPA works with homeowners, businesses, the state, and community groups to fully understand the potential risks that could be present at each site. In addition, I urge you to publicly develop and announce EPA's remediation recommendations. New Yorkers in the affected communities have been waiting too long for information about next steps.

As you know, radioactive hot spots with elevated levels of radiation well over what naturally occurs in the environment have been identified across Niagara County. It is my understanding that the source of contamination is still not fully known, but the majority of radioactive material has been found in the form of gravel and cement believed to have been sourced from radioactive byproducts leftover from prior industrial uses. This issue was first identified 40 years ago and some sites have gone through the clean-up process. I understand that EPA has conducted additional testing of some sites in recent years and has plans to remediate a select number of contaminated properties in the near future. However, I urge your agency to work with the local community to develop a comprehensive remediation plan to address all remaining hot spots across Niagara County.

Again, I urge the EPA to work with local stakeholders to conduct an updated assessment and clean-up plan for the identified radioactive hot spots across Niagara County. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator